

## **ATHLETES COMMISSION**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Athletes Commission (AC) is established as a Commission within World Lacrosse (WL) under section 1.8 of the WL Constitution in the Governance Handbook.

The Commission will report to the WL Board of Directors and the Athletes Commission Chair and Vice Chair are voting members of the Board. The Chair and Vice Chair represent the voice of different genders at the Board.

#### **PURPOSE**

The Commission's aims and objectives are:

- To represent the Athletes within WL, protect their interests and uphold their rights and obligations;
- To promote open communication with, and solicit feedback from, lacrosse athletes and give them a formal role in the decision-making process of WL;
- To provide current and past international Athletes with the opportunity to contribute to the continuous development, evolution and growth of the sport of lacrosse;
- To raise awareness and education of Athletes on topics of direct concern.

#### **1. COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP**

1.1. The Athletes Commission shall consist of six people: three (3) male (two (2) from Field and one (1) from Indoor) and three (3) females. All should be active or recently (within the last 8 years) active athletes from national teams attending WL World Championships.

1.2. The AC members will be voted on by their respective male and female peers at appropriate WL Senior World Championships and will serve for a four (4) year term. A member may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

1.3. The AC will elect its own Chair and Vice Chair. These will alternate between the genders for two-year terms, in accordance with the Athletes Commission Chair election procedure.

1.4 The AC always should consist of the following:

1.4.1 At least one member from each of the recognized continental regions (CR);

1.4.2 To avoid significant imbalance in the representation of CRs, no more than two members should come from the same CR;

1.4.3 No more than one elected or appointed member from any national federation;

1.4.4 A 50/50 split of male and female representatives;

- 1.4.5 At least one member responsible for each recognized discipline of lacrosse (men's box, women's box, men's field, women's field, men's sixes, women's).

1.5 The WL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be the lead staff member for this Commission and will regularly attend AC meetings.

## **2. RESPONSIBILITIES**

2.1. The Commission will:

- 2.1.1. Prepare for the WL Board an Athletes Commission Strategic and Operational Plan;
- 2.1.2. Implement and evaluate the agreed Operational Plan;
- 2.1.3. Serve as a consultative body and make recommendations to the WL Board, WL Committees and other bodies as required;
- 2.1.4. Seek feedback from Athletes and provide feedback to the relevant areas of WL;
- 2.1.5. Encourage and assist Athletes, and WL Member Continental Federations (CFs) and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to establish their own Athletes' Commissions;
- 2.1.6. Liaise with the Athletes' Commissions of the IOC and other sporting organizations to enable the sharing of information and research;
- 2.1.7. Create, manage and promote platforms and structures for Athletes which facilitate communication and the sharing of knowledge and experiences amongst the group;
- 2.1.8. Develop, collate, provide and promote resources for Athletes on topics of direct concern including, but not limited to, Athlete health and welfare, anti-doping, betting, ethics and match fixing.

## **3. ROLE OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION**

3.1. The purpose of the AC is to examine all questions of interest to the Athletes and to present suggestions or recommendations to the WL Board. It may not present proposals directly to the General Assembly (GA), but it may present proposals to the Board or to the other Committees of WL and for this reason the AC has the right to assign one of its members to represent the Athletes' interest in a number of specific Committees, including:

- Rules Committees
- Competition Committees
- Nominations Committee
- Governance Committee
- Diversity & Opportunity Commission
- Women in Sport Commission
- Medical Commission
- Other Committees or Commissions as agreed from time to time by the Board.

#### **4. OPERATING AND REPORTING PROCEDURE**

4.1 The Commission will follow the WL General Procedures applicable to all Commissions which is available in the WL Governance Handbook.

#### **5. MEETINGS**

5.1. Records (minutes or summary reports) of all meetings will be kept and circulated to the President and the WL Chief of Staff, but will otherwise be confidential to the Commission.

5.2. A summary report of activities and/or operational plan will be placed on the WL website.

5.3. A quorum of a minimum of 50% of the Commission shall be required for all meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair will chair the meeting.

#### **6. DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

6.1. The Commission is authorized to seek information from appropriate external bodies.

6.2. The Commission is authorized to set up an election process for Members which will be supported by WL Management. This is separate from any other WL election process and must go directly to Athletes and not to NGBs to vote on their behalf.

6.3. The Commission has otherwise no delegated authority for decisions or expenditure other than where specifically authorized by the Board or World Lacrosse Management.

## **APPENDIX 1. SKILLS, QUALITIES AND COMPETENCIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ATHLETES COMMISSION MEMBERS**

The Athletes Commission looks for athletes who exhibit the following characteristics:

- Leadership;
- Communication;
- Collaboration;
- Dedication;
- Desire to contribute;
- Willingness to get involved;
- Understanding of concerns of Elite Athletes in the context of international sport.

Members of the Athletes Commission should aim to uphold the values of World Lacrosse and to encourage these to be upheld across the community.

- Teamwork
- Passion
- Respect
- Integrity
- Friendship
- Inclusiveness





